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Belmont Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015
Belmont Town Hall
Conference Room 1

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 pm.

The following were in attendance:

Members: Carl Brauer, Nan Donald, Mirela Duda, Jirair Hovsepien, Daniel Vernick, Barbara Watson, Fran Yuan

Liaisons: Police Department: Captain Peter Hoerr

1. January minutes were accepted as amended.
2. Phone Line: Jerry reported on the phone line for January. There were numerous calls, mostly related to the MLK breakfast.
3. Phone line assignments going forward: February, Carl, (Barbara will cover when Carl is away, Feb. 13-23); March, Nan; April, Mirela; May, Jerry; June, Paul; July, Edie; August, Barbara; September, Fran.
4. Dan led a discussion about the institutionalization of a liaison or member of HRC from Belmont High School. Everyone agreed that having a liaison from BHS has been invaluable. There was some discussion about having two liaisons. One could be a Metco student though that would present a logistical challenge because HRC meets at night. Dan will talk to Mr. Richards about next steps. He will also write a description of the responsibilities of a liaison and will write about what a useful liaison could do. Peter pointed out that a true liaison would be chosen by the high school administration or by the student body. Dan is leery about an election which can be a popularity contest. There was a discussion about the difference between a liaison and an HRC member. It was pointed out that the Town has an application form for committee members so we don't have to invent a new application form. Dan will report at the March meeting. It is hoped that we can move forward soon thereafter because Dan will be leaving for college in the Fall.
5. Barbara reported on the MLK Breakfast, which everyone regarded as very successful. Philip Martin was highly praised. Attendance was estimated at 400. There was greater participation by Metco families than in the recent past. Forty children were entertained in the gym and 15 children were in day care. Metro raised \$595 in ticket sales. The final figures are not in, but it appears that revenues will cover all costs. \$2,076 was taken in at the door. Philip Martin did not ask for or receive an honorarium. Barbara pointed out that this event will continue to break even as long as we have free speakers.
6. Carl and Fran reported on "A Path Appears" events, including the WGBH reception and the first discussion that was held at St. Joseph's Church. Two more are to follow.
7. Mirela will attend the follow-up discussion on race issues that is being held on Feb. 8 at First Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Submitted by Recorder: Carl Brauer